

Homeless & ReEntry Helpers, Inc.

Homeless
& ReEntry
Helpers

Welcome to HRH's
ReEntry Presentation
Getting Ready to Get Out
or
I'm Out, Now What?

Need Help? Please Visit the:

Homeless & ReEntry
Resource Center

www.IndyHelpers.com



Old Don

2457 E Washington St
Indianapolis, IN 46201 USA
317-635-0500 *Voice*
317-632-0500 *Cell*
Hawkins@Homeless.ooo
www.IndyHelpers.com



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- **Congratulations!**

- On taking advantage of the time, you have spent here at:

continuing your education, training and skills classes.

- You should be proud of yourself for not wasting your time like others have done before you.
- With the classes and the courses, you have taken, hopefully they will greatly improve your chances of finding a better paying job, sooner than later, and it will make it easier for you to reintegrating back into society when your time comes.
- Only time will tell, but either way, you should be a much better person with the additional education and training you have taken.

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- **My name is Don Hawkins – what I do!**
 - **Other Peoples Properties, Inc.** - Buys & sells low-end investment properties
 - Chairman & CEO
 - **HRH Construction, Inc.** - A General Contractor
 - Chairman & CEO
 - **Homeless & ReEntry Helpers, Inc.** - A non-profit organization
 - Founder & Executive Director
 - **Helpers Helping Others Task Force** - Organize Street Outreach Ministries
 - Founder & Executive Director
 - **Hands of Hope Ministries** - Bible study at Plainfield Correctional Facility since '04
 - **Community Advisory Board Member of ten prisons in Central IN**
 - **Mayor Ballard's ReEntry Services Advisory Board**
 - **Mentor at IREF/PREF** - for the last three years
 - **Visit our prisons, jails and work release centers**
 - **ExOffender** - at one time (in 2000) lost everything and had to start over

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- **When I got out, I found that:**
 - Most people in need of help obtaining a meaningful job, housing, food, transportation, clothing, medical care, etc. usually did not have the tools necessary to find that help.
 - I noticed that there were multiple service providers out there that had the ability to help people, but they did not always know how to find the people that needed help.
 - I also heard that there were many helpful web sites and other informational sources out there, but where were they?
- The last few years, I have made it my business to know where they are, and how to contact them. I can assure you there are plenty of people & organizations out there that are ready, willing and able to help you, you just have to find them.

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- **In the past, persons that were homeless, or in-and-out of our prisons and jails could only get help thru:**
 - **Word of Mouth** (Limited information from the street, prison & jail house friends & family members)
 - **Prisons & Jails** (Old, outdated information and lists)
 - **Parole & Probation** (Old, outdated information and lists)
 - **Shelters & Service Providers** (Limited information)
 - **The Yellow Pages** (Social Services & Welfare Section)
 - **Connect2Help or 2-1-1** (Limited info to the homeless & reentry industry)
 - **Indianapolis Private Industry Council** (Must have a login & password)
 - **Google & Yahoo type web searches** (Must know what you are searching for)
 - **Share Network Indiana** (Limited and outdated info for our industry – only 75 entries for Indy)
- For our purposes, most of the above information is unorganized and outdated for an industry that needs current information from a central source in an organized manner.

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- **Someone needed to tie all that information together into a single source for our industry.**
- **On August of '08 HRH was formed:**
Utilizing today's best information retrieval technology – *the internet*, HRH started providing a web site to those who work with the homeless and those either in, or out of, the prison system with an information data base they can use as a "Community Bulletin Board" that lists; "Faith Based", "Community Based", public & private service providers, and businesses of all kinds that offer various goods and services to those in need.
 - This is a **FREE** resource tool intended to Help our Helpers and those persons reaching out for a better way of life for themselves and their families.

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○ **HRH's Domain Names** (all point to the same place) ✓

IndyHelpers.com | IndianaHelpers.com
ReEntryHelpers.com | HomelessHelpers.com
HelpersHelpingOthers.com

- Currently HRH's web site lists over 1,450 Organizations that claim to help the homeless and those in and out of our prison system. *We are in the process of verifying that information.*
- HRH's Web Site was designed to be used for those in need and their families for easy use as well as for case workers, specialists, service providers, probation & parole officers, volunteers, teachers, tutors, mentors, businesses, pastors, chaplains & **HELPERS** of all kinds.
- HRH also publishes a weekly newsletter that has over 3,550 subscribers



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(317) 547-0500 | 317-547-0700 Fax | Helpers@callHRH.com

Need Help? Please Visit the
**Crucial ReEntry
Resource Center**
www.IndyHelpers.com

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Welcome to Our Homeless & ReEntry Helpers Resource Center

An Information & Referral Web Site for the Homeless & ReEntry Industry

The web site for those in need, and; case workers, service providers, parole & probation officers, volunteers, pastors, landlords, and businesses who help those in need, we call "Our HELPERS".

Need Help? Click Links Below to Search for Information, Goods & Services
HRH's Web Site lists 1,420 Service Providers & Our Weekly Newsletter has over 3,550 Subscribers

1) Search for Services

2) Search by Organization

3) Search by Contact Name

4) Jobs, Housing & Schools
(Quick Reference Links)

5) Our Bulletin Board
(Coming Soon)

6) Events, News & Needs
(Current Newsletter or Bulletin)

HRH's Events, Notes & Other Local Information

- **Volunteers Needed** - Homeless Helpers Task Force was formed to organize Volunteers, Street Outreach, Street Ministries and Service Providers to better serve our Homeless friends. [Click here to learn about HHTF](#)
- Please pass out HRH's Poster & Brochure to members of your organization - Download [Poster](#) or [Brochure](#)
- DOC Just released A Guide to Facilitating Employment for Persons Who Are ExOffenders [Download Guide](#)
- Mayor Greg Ballard's latest Newsletters - [View April 28th Newsletter](#) | [View April 14th Newsletter](#)
- [Past NOTES](#)

[Click here to share your News, Upcoming Events & Job Fairs with Our Newsletter Subscribers.](#)

Our Problem Then: We knew that most people in need of help obtaining a meaningful job, housing, transportation, food, clothing, etc. usually did not have the tools necessary to find that help. We knew there were multiple service providers out there that had the ability to help people but they did not know where all of those people were. We also knew there were a few information sources available, but again, not everyone knew where or how to find them. Someone needed to tie all that information together into a central information data base, that everyone could have access to, from a single source, that was easy to use.

HRH's Solution Now: Utilizing today's best information retrieval technology - **the internet**, Old Don is providing this web site for those who work with the homeless, and those either in, or out of, our jails/prison system with an information data base that lists both "Faith" and "Community Based" organizations (service providers), and businesses that offer various goods and services that help those in need. This is a FREE resource tool intended to Help "Our Helpers" and those persons reaching out for a better way of life for themselves and their families.



HRH's Current Mission: Is to provide our industry with an information & referral network of goods and services to persons in need, and to persons and organizations that are Helping those in need, utilizing our: 1) All-in-One Web Site; 2) Weekly Email Newsletter; and, 3) Web Site Print-Outs.

HRH's Future Goals: Is to provide a: 4) Network of Volunteers, Teachers, Tutors & Mentors (Our Helpers); 5) Network of Housing & Job Suppliers; and, 6) Homeless & ReEntry Conference & Training Center that will act as a "Service Bureau" for Service Providers in our industry.

Sign up for HRH's Weekly Newsletter

Enter Your Email Address then click "Submit"

Please Note: HRH is only an information gathering and referral service organization. HRH is not a direct provider of any monies, goods, or services other than providing information and referrals on how to get those monies, goods, or services - via our web site, our email newsletters, and our web site print-outs. HRH is not qualified nor equipped to help most people in need, or in and out of jail/prison. For those who call our offices and don't have access to the Internet, we refer them to Service Providers (Our Helpers) listed on our web site that we believe are equipped and qualified to HELP them.



Our God & Our Country

[Declaration of Independence](#)



Local Weather

[U.S. Constitution](#)



HRH is a 501 (c) (3)

[The Bill of Rights](#)



Get Adobe Reader

[The Federalist Papers](#)

[Who are your Local Officials?](#) | [Who are your State Legislators?](#) | [Who are your Federal Legislators?](#) | [Form #1 \(Revised 6May10 at 1715 by DEH\)](#)

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For suggestions or questions regarding this Web site please contact Don Hawkins at: Hawkins@callHRH.com or 317-547-0700 Fax
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Internet | Protected Mode: On

100%

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You can search for Goods & Services via these 36 Categories, or from over 320 Topics that are needed by those in the Homeless & ReEntry industry.

- Addiction & Substance Abuse
- Advocacy Organizations
- Babies, New & Un-Born
- Business & Entrepreneurs
- Children, Teens & Juveniles
- Clothing, Personal/Household Items
- Community Based Organizations
- Correctional & Law Enforcement
- Disaster & Emergency
- Domestic Abuse
- Entertainment & Publications
- Faith Based Organizations
- Family Outreach
- Financial & Banking
- Food, Meals & Kitchens
- Government Services (use Topics)
- Hispanic Outreach
- Homeless Outreach
- Housing, Long Term-For Rent/Sale
- Housing, Mid Term-Transitional
- Housing, Short Term-Shelters
- Information & Referrals
- Jobs & Employment
- Legal & Insurance
- Life Skills & Character Building
- Medical & Mental Health
- Misc. For Profit Businesses
- Misc. Services (use Topics)
- Muslim Outreach
- ReEntry & ExOffender
- Reference, Research & Grants
- Seniors & Disabilities
- Schools & Educational
- Transportation
- Veterans Outreach
- Volunteers & Mentoring

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- **Don't Have Access to the Internet?**

You can get a printed copy of the most searched “Topics” online, or you can give us a call and a copy will be mailed to you. The printed version lists over 160 “Topics”, with limited information. It contains the names of the organizations with their address and phone numbers.

- You can also visit your nearest library that has internet access, or tell your family members, friends, your case worker, specialist, probation officer, or parole officer about HRH's our web site so they can help you obtain the information you need to help you.

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- **Please Note:**

HRH is only an information gathering and referral service organization. HRH is not a provider of any monies, goods, or services other than providing information on how to get those monies, goods, or services - via the internet, newsletters, and directories.

- HRH is not directly qualified nor equipped to help most people in need, or in and out of jail/prison. For those who call our offices, and don't have access to the Internet, we refer them to Service Providers (Our Helpers) listed on our web site that we believe are equipped and qualified to HELP them.

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- **ExOffender & ReEntry Programs**

- In Indiana and Indianapolis, we are blessed with two current administrations that are promoting ReEntry Programs and are listening to the concerns of ExOffenders.

- We finally have politicians that are taking ReEntry and the problems of recidivism very seriously!

- **Governor Mitch Daniels**

- **Edwin Buss**, Commissioner of INDOC
- **Randy Koester**, Deputy Commissioner of ReEntry
- **Mike Lloyd**, Director of Transition Facilities & Community-Based Programs

- **Mayor Greg Ballard**

- **Olgen Williams**, Deputy Mayor
- **Frank Straub**, Director of Public Safety
- **Maxine Bryant**, Director of ReEntry
 - Plus, the Mayor has empowered two Task Forces on ReEntry – One with Service Providers & the other with ExOffenders

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- **HRH is now visiting our prisons, jails, and work release centers.**
 - HRH has been visiting our prisons, jails and work release centers (both public & private), making presentations to the inmates on how existing service providers can help them better prepare for their future, both before and after they are released, with:
 - Job preparedness, jobs, housing, medical, schools, clothing, food, legal services, consultants, case workers, addiction services, etc.
 - HRH has also started visiting our prisons, jails and work release centers (both public & private), making presentations to their staff on how HRH's information system can benefit them, and the inmates and residents they serve.

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The seven most important components needed to keep you from going back to prison or jail are:

- Information - like what HRH's web site or 2-1-1 has to offer
 - You, or someone working with you must have access to the internet before and after you get out. You need to be able to find services for yourselves and/or find service providers, case workers & parole officers that can help you obtain the remaining components.
- Housing - A place to go, and come home to
 - Transitional, shelters, supportive or other places (homes) for rent
- Treatment for -
 - Substance abuse, mental health & anger management, self esteem, etc.
- Mentors, Friends & Family (Relationships) -
 - You need someone you can depend on, and talk to, both in & out of prison
- Jobs - Full or part time
 - Training, re-training, continued education & placement for better paying jobs
- Transportation -
 - Bus passes, used autos, gas money, share ride programs
- Basis needs stuff like -
 - Food, clothes, hygiene items, medicine, email service, a cell phone, etc.

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- **Warning**
 - **Getting out of prison can be hazardous to your mental health**
 - “Getting out” of prison is the easy part – “Staying out” will be the hard part
 - When you get out, if you have not prepared to get out, while you are in here, you will probably be back!
- **With that in mind, keep this in mind while you’re here:**
 - **Start taking whatever classes you have to, to better yourself. If you don’t have a: mentor, teacher, or tutor; or you are not in one of DOC’s Mentoring; First Day Out; or P.L.U.S. programs; start talking to your case worker at least 90 to 180 days before you are scheduled to be released.**
 - If you don’t have at least a high school diploma, make sure you try and get your G.E.D., or at least study for it while you are here. When you get out there are plenty of places that you can help you finish it.

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- **Today, I want to remind you that:**

While you continue to spend your time here, please don't waste this time waiting for someone else to do something for you, plan as if you are on your own.

- Start building your support system (team) from 90 to 180 days before you're release date, depending on your institutions rules.
- Start; talking to, calling, or writing:
 - Family, friends, teachers, tutors, mentors, case workers, service providers, chaplains, church members, employment agencies, etc.
 - If this institution has reentry, or other helpful type classes, take them.
- If you don't have family and friends helping you when you get out, and YOU have not prepared for your release, don't expect there to be a line of people waiting out there to help you.
- The rules are - You are only going to get what you prepare for.
 - If you don't prepare for anything, don't expect anything!
- Please take YOUR time to prepare for YOUR ReEntry. Remember, for now, time is something you have plenty of. Don't waste it!

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- **After You Get Out:**

- Continue to build your support system (team). Just because you're finally out, and you may or may not have a job, and/or a place to live, does not mean that you have all the answers.
 - Keep your support system in place, for several months, if possible.
- When looking for a job and a place to live, remember, in today's tough times, most of us are having a hard time finding a good job and a nice place to live, especially something that you want.
- Be patient and try to be selective, do your homework, and while searching, don't get discouraged and remember; sometimes "something is better than nothing" – at least for a short time.

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- **Before You Start Looking, Take a Good Look at Yourself:**
 - If you were an employer that was hiring, or a landlord that was looking for a tenant, and YOU was to walk in your office asking for a job or a place to live, would you hire yourself, or want you to live with you today?
 - **ALWAYS BE PREPARED** when you're out there, try not get caught looking or smelling like you just got out of bed, or just left a bar with nasty looking hair, dirty cloths and un-shined shoes. Always be neat and clean and have a resume in your back pocket at all times because you never know when you will meet someone that may be in a position to help you get a job, or help you get back on your feet.
 - Not having at least a G.E.D. is the 1st reason employers will not hire you
 - The way you look, if not properly dressed for the interview is the 2nd
 - The way you talk, if using street slang, and bad language is the 3rd

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- **When looking for a job:**

- **Remember:**

- You are first and foremost a “Salesperson” –
The two products you have to sell is: 1) yourself, and
2) the package of services you have to offer.

- **The Don't:**

- Don't Waste your time or theirs by calling on employers that “you know” will not hire you because of where you were, or what you did.
 - If you are a sex offender, don't apply for a job at a school or Disneyland
 - If you can't type, don't apply for a law clerk's or secretaries' job
 - If you robbed a bank, don't apply for a job at a bank or a check cashing center
 - If you can't read or write, don't apply for a job as a librarian.
 - We can help you with this one, both in and out of jail or prison – Please ask for help!
- Try to only apply for those jobs that you know you are capable of getting and/or doing.

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- **When looking for a job (con't):**

- **The Do's:**

- Have an updated resume with your current contact information
- Get an email address – Google, Yahoo, etc.
- Get a cell phone – Wall Mart has a good selection of pre-paid phones
- Visit and register with WorkOne
- Go on-line and register with Career Builders at www.IndyStar.com
- Go on-line to www.IndyHelpers.com - click on our Jobs & Housing link
 - There are over 150 web sites listing jobs and housing both locally and nationwide
 - View the classified ads in all your local newspapers for jobs, housing, etc.
- Go on-line and look for, or call Service Providers that can help you
 - Homeless & ReEntry Helpers and Connect2Help can provide you with this information
 - Don't, "Put all your eggs in one basket" with just one Service Provider, shop around!
- Tell everyone you know that you are looking for a job
- Sign up at employment agencies & career counselors
- You may have to take a part-time and/or a temporary job to get by
- Consider a career other than what you normally do
- **Keep your eyes open, always aim high, but be realistic for the times.**

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- **Continuing Education –**

- **Colleges, Universities, Trade Schools**

- If you plan to further your education when you get out
 - Start preparing now, today – Do not wait until you get out to get started on this
- After you have figured out; what you want to do, where you want to go, and you have been accepted, start getting all the paper work together and get it submitted as soon as possible.
- If you are going to need a grant or financial assistance, start on it today!

- **Expand You're Thinking –**

- **A “job” is not for everyone!**

- Learn to be creative in searching for ways to make a living
- Nothing says you have to work for someone else
- Ask yourself, what are you good at. Do you think you can make, or do, something better than anyone else?
- If you think like an entrepreneur (starting your own business), learn to be one
 - Their are all type of classes that can help you learn how to start your own business

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- **It's All About Choices.**

- In trying to be honest with yourself, on how you got here, ask yourself:
 - Did I just commit a crime?
 - A one-time stupid thing that will never happen again, and when I get out I will live happily ever after, or
 - Am I a criminal?
 - If you are a criminal you might as well add the word "career" in front of the word criminal because criminals always find a way to come back. While you're here, I'm sure that you noticed that career criminals aren't as smart as they thought they were. Otherwise, they wouldn't be back in here time and time again. Crime may pay for a short time but when caught, you always have to do the long - hard time.
 - I hope you don't think you are a criminal, and I hope you have learned something positive from your experience here. I know it's hard to do sometimes because of the environment, but believe me, there is hope and help when you get out, if you prepare.

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• **It's Decision Time!**

- Are you still blaming others for your being here, family friends, etc.?
- Somewhere along the line you have to start taking responsibility for your own actions, your own shortcomings, and your own future.
 - Remember, it is your future at stake here, and not anyone else's
- **Set your goals and get your priorities in order.**
- Get up and get out of bed every morning with the intent of helping yourself prepare to become a better person – Don't just lay there feeling sorry for yourself accomplishing nothing!
- **We have all been thru the good, the bad, and the ugly at one point of our lives but its what we do after that, that will determine our future.**
- Prepare for your future while you are here, start studying, and please ask for help if you need it.
- **It's you decision but remember, no body can make you a better person but you!**

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• **Your Environment and Your Future:**

- When you get out, your environment is everything to your future.
- Ask yourself, do you think your environment contributed to you getting in here in the first place? If so, you need to change it. Please don't return to the same environment that got you here in the first place.
- If your friends had something to do with you getting here, change your friends.
- If your neighborhood had something to do with you getting here, change your neighborhood.
- If your family had something to do with you getting here, and you think you are now a better person for what you have been thru, try to help your family be a better family unit, by using counseling if necessary, if you can't, avoid them.
- Bottom line is, don't let your past (neighborhood, family or friends) keep YOU from YOUR future.
- Don't make, or let excuses, even the good ones, keep you down.
- The sooner you find solutions to your problems, the better off you will be.
- Always work toward your goals and overcoming your objections, and again, if you need help, please ask for it. Help is out there.
- There is nothing wrong with, or to be ashamed of, in asking for help!

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- **What Ever You Do, Don't Quit:**

- **Don't give up and Don't get discouraged**

- I know that is easier said than done sometimes but the bottom line is, it's all a numbers game.
- The more places you apply for (jobs or housing) the better off your chances of succeeding are. Again, it's up to you, and no one else!

- **At this point it doesn't matter how you got here. It's what you are now doing, and what you will be doing, when you get out, that will keep you out, or get you back in.**

- Ultimately it is your responsibility to keep you out – NO ONE ELSE'S

- **If you have a chip on your shoulder, get it off. If you think the world owes you something, it doesn't. When you get out, you will find that employers don't care how you got there, they just want to know what you can do for them and their company.**

- **It won't be easy out there but:**

- The more you prepare for your ReEntry in here, the smoother it will be out there - The less you prepare in here, the rougher it will be out there.

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- **A Word of Advice:**

- For those of you that will still be on paper when you got out, and think you may still need some help, please be honest with yourself and try to be honest with your parole and probation officer.
 - They can be your best friend or they can be your worst nightmare.
 - There is not a lie you can tell them that they have not heard over and over again.
 - If you are still having problems with; fines & fees, drugs, alcohol or other addictions, and you are having a hard time finding help, tell them what you are going thru. If you don't tell them the truth, they can't help you.
 - Remember, they are not drug and alcohol counselors, but they now have more resources than ever - ask them for suggestions.
 - There is no guarantee that they can help you, but they may be able to direct you to someone or some organization that can help.

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- **In Review:**

- Just in case you missed it, the theme of the last part of my presentation here today has been on “Responsibility”.
 - I have tried to point out to YOU that YOU are responsible for YOU and no one else. You and you alone will determine if and when you come back to this or other correctional facilities.
 - **It’s you’re responsibility:**
 - To register with your parole or probation officer as ordered
 - To get proper ID together
 - To get a job
 - To get a place to live
 - To get to and from your job
 - To pay your bills and any fines and fees you may have
 - To get help with any addictions or medical conditions you may have
 - To run and live in an environment that benefits you, and more importantly, keeps you out of trouble.

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- **YOU are Responsible for YOU!**
 - Help is out there if you want it, and you know where to find it, and hopefully you will take the time to start looking for help before you get out.
 - Please do not waste the valuable time you are here.
 - Start Preparing Now!
- **You are not alone in here, and you don't need to be alone out there!**
 - When you get out, if you need help, ask for it, your future may depend on it.
 - Congratulations again, be careful out there when you get out, because we don't want you back in here.

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- **And Finally,** (ladies) or (gentlemen),
 - **Remember, God loves you, and so do we!**
 - **Thank You and God Luck.**
- **HRH's Contact Information:**
 - **Homeless & ReEntry Helpers, Inc.**
 - 2457 E Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46201 USA
 - 317-635-0500 **Voice** | 317-632-0500 **Cell**
 - **Don Hawkins**, *Founder & Executive Director*
 - Hawkins@Homeless.ooo **Email Address**
 - www.IndyHelpers.com **Web Site Address**

Need Help? Please Visit the:

**Road to ReEntry
Resource Center**

www.ReEntryHelpers.com

Need Help? Please Visit the:

**Homeless & ReEntry
Resource Center**

www.IndyHelpers.com

Need Help? Please Visit the:

**Community Services
Resource Center**

www.IndianaHelpers.com